

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Deployment Preparation

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers #1

September 2, 2005

1. **What vaccinations are needed to be able to deploy?**
 - CDC recommends the following immunizations
 - Tetanus and diphtheria toxoid (primary series or booster if not given within 5 years)
 - Hepatitis B for persons for persons who will be performing direct patient care or otherwise expected to have contact with bodily fluids to begin the series if not previously immunized
 - DHMH is recommending beginning the Hep A vaccination series if you have not already been immunized.
2. **Where can I obtain these vaccinations?**
 - Most local health departments are preparing to assist responders in obtaining these immunizations. Contact your local health department to make arrangements to get immunized. Call before you go.
3. **Who can be deployed as a responder from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene?**
 - Staff from DHMH, local health departments, hospitals, and the private sector are responding
 - Information is being prepared specifically for DHMH staff, so check your e-mail and/or the DHMH website
4. **Where can I find information on how to volunteer for deployment?**
 - Check the DHMH website
5. **How long will I be asked to leave my family?**
 - Most deployments are expected to by approximately 2 weeks or 14 days
 - There may be exceptions based on the particular role that a volunteer has during the relief efforts.
6. **What things should I do to protect my family before I deploy?**
 - Make sure that your family knows where you are
 - Make sure that they have access to your keys, bank account, insurance information and other valuables
 - Prepare a will
 - Prepare a letter of instruction describing what to do should anything happen to you
 - Prepare a Family Care plan to assist in the care of children and elders who usually are your responsibility
 - Make arrangements to take care of your pets
7. **How can I protect my home or apartment before I deploy?**
 - Notify neighbors of your absence

- Stop newspapers and have mail held if you live alone

8. If I have allergies and asthma can I be deployed?

- The areas where you are being deployed are hot, humid, moldy and wet
- There is no air conditioning
- You will be in crowded, very poor living conditions
- Your goal as a responder is to be there to help others, you do not want to become a victim

9. If I take prescription medications, will I be able to get refills?

- Probably not!
- As far as we know now, there is no way to purchase or store any items once you get to the affected areas